

Hello all, and happy September! We don't know about you, but it feels as though September has flown by. During this month, we know that many of you have had new starts and begun on new courses. Whilst the colder weather sets in from most of us, and the night seems darker, it seems that we are gearing up for a busy end of the year.

the black women in science network

In this month's newsletter, we share the high points of our month, as well as some sneak peaks for what we have coming up with October. As always, we always shout out – we have some of that for you too.

Celebrating You 2024 #CY2024

It brings us immense joy to announce that we are back with another [Celebrating You](#) event, happening for the 3rd time on Thursday 24th October 2024. *Celebrating You* is an opportunity that we have created to celebrate Black women in Science and/or science-related fields. Held during Black History Month, this event is an opportunity for Black women to come and feel seen and supported amongst others with similar experiences in the Sciences. There will be time to network, socialise and celebrate the achievements of both yourself and other Black women in science.

the
black women
in science
network

CELEBRATING YOU
OCTOBER 24TH, 18:30

Join us for an evening of networking and games
celebrating Black women in the Sciences

www.bwisnetwork.co.uk/events
Tickets available via Eventbrite

Supported by
The Academy of
Medical Sciences

As always, spaces are free but limited. Please [register as soon as possible](#) to avoid disappointment. Based on feedback from previous attendees, we will be putting the option for a donation to be made alongside your registration. Keep up with all updates by engaging with #CY2024 on social media.

If you have some doubt about whether you should attend or not, have a look at the feedback from last year. We also have blog posts about the [Celebrating You 2022](#) and [Celebrating You 2023](#) that you can recap and enjoy with us. Finally, we have some [pictures from the previous Celebrating You events](#) available for viewing on our website.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Academy of Medical Sciences who will be supporting this event. We're excited to share further space with you!!

BWiS Podcast: Aphids and Plant Immunity

September is full of awareness raising days/weeks such as World Afro Day, which was on 15th September, and Black Maternal Mental Health Week, which was celebrated from the 23rd to the 29th September. We have episodes relating to [Black Maternal Health](#) and [Black Hair Discrimination](#). Make sure to check them out! On the podcast this month, we had Dr Jade Bleau, a molecular plant scientist, tell us about her research of aphids and plant immune systems. You can [listen on your preferred streaming platform](#). Next month, we have an exciting episode from a Cosmetic Scientist.



Aphid on a plant | Pixabay

BWiS Blog: Sickle Cell Awareness Month

September has been Sickle Cell Awareness Month. Sickle Cell Disorder primarily affects Black people but awareness of the of the illness is still low amongst the general population. In the last year, huge advances have been made in the search for a cure. Over on our blog, we took the time this month to take a [closer look at what Sickle Cell Disorder is](#), recent advances in treatment and what you can do to help during (and beyond) Sickle Cell Awareness Month.

Brunch Talks with BWiS

Thank you to all those who attended last month's Brunch Talks with BWiS. We had a great online session, and it was nice to meet new people, and to welcome some regulars as well. Thanks for accommodating the time change. We are back to normal programming in October. Don't miss out on our upcoming Brunch Talks with BWiS sessions. The next dates are:

- October 19th,
- November 16th,
- 14th December.

These virtual events are more than just a gathering, they're a dynamic space where our community comes together to connect, uplift, and inspire. We look forward to sharing these engaging discussions with you! Contact admin@bwisnetwork.com for more information.

Asking for support

One of our Brunch Talks with BWiS attendees (a current MSc Biomedical Science student) is looking for advice on how to seek opportunities in Biomedical Sciences. We'd love to reach

out and put her in contact with our wider community. So, if you have resources, advice, or would like to be put in contact, please reach out to admin@bwisnetwork.com stating so.

Black Leaders in Cancer PhD Scholarship Programme

Recruitment for the third round of CRUK's Black Leaders in Cancer PhD Scholarship Programme is now open, this year with more places and in more locations! The programme, run in collaboration with Black in Cancer and the Windsor Fellowship, aims to support a more diverse pipeline of future talent in cancer research fields.

This opportunity is open to students from Black backgrounds and offers participants a fully funded 4-year PhD studentship in cancer research at one of our training programmes in a CRUK Centre, and a comprehensive personal and professional wrap around support, including training, coaching and mentoring. Ready to start your PhD in September 2025? Attend their online Insight Session and find out more information about the programme, how to apply and about life as a PhD student [via this link](#).

Attend the first Black in Plant Science (BiPS) Conference

The Black in Plant Science team are inviting all plant enthusiasts to join them at the inaugural BiPS Conference 2024 at the University of Cambridge on Tuesday 22 October 2024 for a day to connect, celebrate and cultivate diversity in the UK Plant Science community. The full programme and registration details are available [here](#).

The Black in Plant Science (BiPS) team are inviting all plant enthusiasts to join them at their inaugural conference on Tuesday 22 October 2024, taking place at Sainsbury Laboratory, University of Cambridge. Building on their online activities, this conference aims to continue BiPS's work of highlighting the contributions of Black researchers in UK Plant Science space, from the recent to the more distant past. This conference is welcome to all plant enthusiasts where there will also be sessions specially designed to provide safe spaces for Black communities to interact and build networks. [Registration is open now](#) and for more information please [check out their website!](#)

Biochemical Society 2026 Awards open for nominations

The [Biochemical Society 2026 Awards](#) are now open for nominations! Featuring recognition opportunities for all career stages across academia, industry, and education, this is your chance to nominate an outstanding individual, team, or organization for their work. The deadline for initial nominations is 1 November 2024, with submissions welcomed by and for both members and non-members.

FSA Science Council and Advisory Committee 2024 Applications Open

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) are excited to announce that they are now accepting applications for positions on their independent [Science Council, Science Advisory Committees, and Joint Expert Groups](#). This is a unique opportunity to contribute to the vital

work of ensuring food safety and standards. This year, they are seeking a diverse range of expertise and perspectives to enhance our Science Council, Science Advisory Committees and Joint Expert Groups. Joining the committee will give you the opportunity to influence key decisions and policies related to food safety; collaborate with leading experts in the field; and contribute to the advancement of scientific knowledge and public health.

So, as you can see, a lot has happened in September and a lot is coming up in October. Looking forward to interacting with some of you in-person, and online. Have a wonderful month.

See you soon,

Black Women in Science Network